CALVINISM
A MISLEADING SIGNAL

by Dr. Suhento Liauw
translated by Mrs. Krista Ang

There are so many negative aspects about Calvinism that can be written that it is impossible to disclose them all in a short article such as this. But in order that the readers can understand a little why Lawrence Vance stated that Calvinism was the most terrible plague in Christianity, only some of the main aspects will be discussed here, for more in depth explanation please visit http://www.graphe-ministry.org and other sites as well.

John Calvin taught that God in ONE decree has ordained everything without exception. Without any advanced thinking capability, anyone can conclude that it means that this decree also ordained Adam and Eve to fall into sin, a girl to be raped by five persons, and a grandfather or a father not to enter heaven. In that very decree God had also ordained that a person should suffer deception, that a riot that caused many civilians victims should happen on May 14, 1998 in Jakarta, and that somebody's house or shop to be burnt. This is the core of the PREDESTINATION doctrine from Calvinism.

Even John Calvin made this statement, "Again, I ask: whence does it happen that Adam's fall irremediably involved so many peoples, together with their infants offspring, in eternal death unless because it so pleased God? Here their tongues, otherwise too loquacious, must become mute. The decree is dreadful indeed, I confess. Yet no one can deny that God foreknew what end man was to have before he created him, and consequently foreknew because he do ordained by his decree. [John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Ed. By John T. Mcneil. Trans. By Ford Lewis Battles (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1960), p. 995 (III.xxi.5).]

Of course we don't deny that God knows all from eternity to eternity. But there is no truth in the statement that God knows all since He has ordained them. We believe that God knows that there are many evil things to pass, and God knows that Adam and Eve would fall into sin, but it is not God who has ordained them to fall into sin or those evil things to happen either. All those evils happen because God created human being who can think for themselves, having self-awareness and freewill. John Calvin badmouthed God by stating that God was pleased that Adam and Eve fell into sin. It should be the contrary, that God is greatly displeased when human falls into sin. God even abhors the pride (Amos 6:8).

The Calvinist concept that God has ordained everything including bad will and evil doings cannot be accepted by anyone capable of logical thinking. That's why we hear people say, "If there is God, why are there many evils in this world?" The notion that God is associated with evil things is not acceptable by many. But if what Calvinism teaches is true, then it means that there is no freewill from the part of human being. If there is no freewill, then no man can think for himself, he is only programmed to do what he is destined to do. Combined with the fact that evil deeds are ever increasing in this world, you

would come to only two conclusions, either there is no God. Second or if there is God, then He must be a cruel God.

In the end, instead of believing that there is a cruel God, who has ordained many evil deeds, it is more logical and acceptable to believe that there is no God at all. This is why Calvinism became a factor that has destroyed Christianity in Europe, and that is now working to destroy Christianity in America. Calvinism spreads the seeds of atheism, or even worse, it spreads the seeds of hatred toward God. God who is believed by Calvinists is a God who is insane because before he created human, he has ordained that those human should fall into sin. As if this is not enough, he cherry picked those whom he would save based on his own pleasure, and let the rest of them perish without cause.

John Calvin's predestination teaches that God has ordained the number of people who will enter Heaven, and the rest will go to Hell unconditionally (without cause). Logically, anyone can conclude that the number of the people in Papua who will enter Heaven is fixed, it will not increase nor decrease. This decree had been made in eternity before there were people in Papua, even before the creation of Adam.

From this kind of teaching, can we conclude that every effort to bring the Gospel to Papua is a waste of time? Calvinists say No! Because we do not know who are chosen and who are not! OK, assuming that we do not know who will be saved or not and we don't preach the Gospel there, the question is, will it reduce the number of Papua people that will go to Heaven? If the answer is "no" because it has been ordained in eternity, then isn't the effort to bring Gospel to Papua just another unnecessary extra work?

We know that God created human who are given conscience, self-awareness, and freewill. Why? Because God wants to be worshipped by creatures who can make their own decision. No one wants to be praised by a robot, but everyone wants to be praised by another human who can choose either to praise or mock him.

Finally, human fell into sin, by deciding against the will of God. Because human sinned, then there should be a punishment of sin. The punishment, as proclaimed by God, is death. That is why human must suffer death and is separated from God. But God promised to send a Savior that would bear that punishment instead of human. Adam and Eve who were sinners had to repent and believe in the Savior **who would come** and bear their punishment.

Everyone in the Old Testament time who wanted to enter Heaven had to repent and believe in the Savior **who would come**. Everyone in the New Testament time who wants to enter Heaven has to repent and believe in the Savior **who has come**. That is why for the Old Testament people, the Gospel that preached about the Savior **who would come** was very important, and so is the Gospel about the Savior **who has come** and crucified for the New Testament people.

The Calvinist teaching is a wrong and misleading signal, and even destructive for churches. Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, and other sects are outside the church, but Calvinism is inside the church. That's why Lawrence Vance said that Calvinism was a plague to Christianity. With Reformed College and Seminary, and also Reformed Churches, this Calvinism is spread to the whole world.

Then Calvin's followers accused the writer of saying false things about them. Is the accusation true? Didn't the writer quote the statement of John Calvin himself which said that God had ordained everything in one decree in eternity and that God had been pleased to ordain the fall of Adam? Why did

it displease them when Calvin’s statements were exposed and logical conclusions derived from them? Aren’t they supposed to be proud of that statement by Calvin? Other people accused the writer of misunderstanding or misinterpreting Calvinism! Then, what Dave Hunt said is really true. He said that Calvinism was something that could not be understood because it was full of contradiction and illogical. He furthermore stated that Calvinism could only be fully embraced by blind faith. The writer did not want to have such a faith because as human being, the writer is capable of logical thinking. How about you? Are you a human with conscience, self-awareness, and freewill? Please ponder this question carefully.